

Homily for Sunday Mass, February 25, 2018
Year B – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 9:2-10
----Father Mike Cadotte----

Today, in the 2nd Sunday of Lent we continue our journey of Lent, of life and of our faith. You have heard Msgr. Harry speak of Lent in the context of a journey last Sunday as well as myself this past Wednesday and I hope you will begin to see your life, in all its different ways, as just that – a journey.

In our first reading Abraham is asked to go from his native land on an unknown journey with the intent to sacrifice his son! Is this possible? Would God actually ask this of Abraham after he promised him and Sarah a child that will raise nations? I don't think our God of infinite love would do anything like that. But it is possible that Abraham, living in a pagan culture that worshiped a god (small 'g') of death that required of them a sacrifice of their first-born sons got caught up in his own culture of the day or possibly wanted to prove that his God was greater than any other and worthy of any sacrifice that some pagan god would require? God stopped Abraham on that mountain top and even looked past his deed and loved him for his devotion and commitment to serve Him. God is always with us on our journeys, good and bad, and there to lead us, when we take the wrong exit, but a secret – you have to be open to His call and listen.

I fear there is a little Abraham in all of us today. Our society has allowed our faithful lives to be influenced by the gods of today: technology, money, power, greed and self-importance. We have allowed ourselves to overlook almost anything in service to those modern 'gods' at enormous cost. We see mass killings across our land, with the most recent in Florida, and we shed tears and offer prayers, but we continue to hold firm to our commitments to our modern culture and in the end offer no corrected course – the journey has taken a wrong turn. We must look to God, and the faith, and pray that our society will embrace God, embrace the teachings of Christ, and turn from these constructs that wreak such havoc and loss in our lives. It is going to be a long journey that will require all of us to play a part. Not a wanted journey but one we must all start to travel together on if we are to re-establish God's great commandment to love one-another and not fear each other.

Our three disciples found themselves on a journey that found them climbing a mountain with no paths or roads – something that is not a physically easy thing to do, and then that journey with their Rabbi turns from a bonding time of joy for Peter, James and John into a terrifying experience. Journeys often can combine joy and fear in equal portion – look to the extreme joy, and at the same time fear, that an expecting couple would go through...

Homily for Sunday Mass, February 25, 2018
Year B – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 9:2-10
----Father Mike Cadotte----

Three young fathers were in the waiting room. The first was told that his wife gave birth to twins. He was amazed and said, “I play ball for the Minnesota Twins.”

Later, the nurse came out and told the second man, “Congratulations, you are the father of triplets.” He said, “That is amazing! I work for 3M.”

The man next to him fainted. When he woke up they asked, “What’s wrong.” He said, “I work for 7Up.”

Peter, James and John had seen their Rabbi transform before their eyes on that mountain. They were terrified (just like our 7Up employee), and Peter even makes the statement, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here” but I think there is more of a question there than statement. Those tents they suggested building – is it possible they wanted to shield themselves from Moses, Elijah and the transformed Christ? And just then, God does shield them within a cloud and calls out to the chosen three to behold God’s son and TO LISTEN TO HIM!

Friends, I pray that all these fragments of journey I talk of will sink into your hearts and minds. I want you to use them as your own guides to understand the journeys you are on now and to help you with the journeys the life is presenting to you. For all of us we are confronted with journeys that are not always of our choosing and not always easy. Not every journey will bring us joy. Not every journey will be as bad as we fear. Not every journey can be compared or is equal to another’s. The reality is our path of life is really a collection of paths and the one, and only constant that they all have in common is that God is there with you. Are you listening and receptive to the help and navigation God is offering you on those journeys? These trials of life are just those times that God walks right up next to you, so you can lean on your Creator and find the direction you need through God’s love, compassion and strength.

AMEN